

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 214335

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EXDIS - SPECAT EXCLUSIVE-MINIMIZE CONSIDERED

NSG PLEASE PASS TO EDWARD PECK FOR UNDER SECRETARY OF
STATE PORTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (PORTER, WILLIAM J.)

SUBJ: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION REPORT AS OF 0600 EST, 10/31/73

1. MILITARY SITUATION - THE CEASEFIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD ON
BOTH FRONTS, WITH NO SIGNIFICANT VIOLATIONS.

2. POW'S - ICRC REPS IN CAIRO HAVE BEEN TOLD BY EGYPTIAN
AUTHORITIES THAT THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION TO FORWARDING POW
NAMES TO THE ICRC DELEGATION IN CAIRO NOW. THE EGYPTIAN
AUTHORITIES SAID THAT THEY ALSO ARE READY TO PROCEED WITH
POW REPATRIATION WHEN TROOPS HAVE RETURNED TO THE POSITIONS
HELD ON OCT 22. MEANWHILE KING HUSSEIN HAS PROMISED VISIT-
ING CONGRESSMAN RYAN AND STEELE THAT HE WILL URGE THE
SYRIANS TO FOLLOW EGYPT'S LEAD AND RELEASE THE NAMES OF
POW'S AS WELL AS MAKE SOME HUMANITARIAN GESTURE, SUCH AS
TURNING OVER WOUNDED POW'S TO THE ICRC. AT THE UN THE
RUSSIAN DELEGATION WANTS TO ELIMINATE FROM THE SECURITY
COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S APPEAL TO THE LEADERS OF EGYPT, SYRIA
AND ISRAEL A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO
COOPERATE WITH THE ICRC IN CONNECTION WITH POW'S.

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 214335

3. OIL - OUR EMBASSY IN JIDDA JUDGES AS PROBABLY UNTRUE
BBC AND VOA REPORTS THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS IMPLEMENTED AN
ADDITIONAL FIVE PERCENT CUT IN OIL PRODUCTION.

4. MEIR - PRIMIN MEIR, UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE AT HOME, IS REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZING THAT THE US PRESSED ISRAEL INTO ACCEPTING A CEASEFIRE AND PERMITTING THE EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY TO BE SUPPLIED. AL AHRAM (NEWSPAPER) VIEWS PRIMIN MEIR'S US VISIT AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.

5. UNEF/UNTSO - USUN HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE USG SHOULD NOW CONSIDER AS QTE FORMAL UNQTE THE UN REQUESTS FOR AIR LIFT OF FINNISH SOLDIERS FROM HELSINKI TO CAIRO AND AIR LIFT OF 20 TONS OF EQUIPMENT FROM PISA TO CAIRO, BOTH OF WHICH WE HAVE ACCEPTED. DEFENSE TENTATIVELY PLANS TO AIRLIFT THE 668 FINNISH TROOPS AND ACCOMPANYING CARGO IN C-141 AIRCRAFT ON NOV 1, 5 AND 6 AS REQUESTED BY THE UN SECRETARIAT. THE EQUIPMENT AT PISA WILL PROBABLY BE TRANSPORTED BY C-130 AIRCRAFT ONCE WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE EQUIPMENT IS ASSEMBLED AND READY FOR SHIPMENT. IN THE INTEREST OF STANDARDIZATION OF EQUIPMENT AND THE AVOIDANCE OF MAINTENANCE, COST AND RESUPPLY PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE PLAGUED OTHER PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, THE UN HAS FORMALLY REQUESTED US TO PROVIDE AND AIRLIFT THE GREATER PART OF THE HEAVY EQUIPMENT FOR UNEF. THEY HAVE INDICATED THEY WOULD PREFER US DONATION OF THIS EQUIPMENT BUT WOULD STILL WISH US TO BE THE SUPPLY SOURCE, EVEN IF ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS. AMEMB OTTAWA REPORTS THAT GOC HAS RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO A UNSYG REQUEST THAT CANADA PROVIDE THE LOGISTICS COMPONENT FOR UNEF FOR THE INITIAL SIX MONTHS PERIOD. CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THIS FORM IS REPORTEDLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES OF THE CONFLICT.

6. INDIAN OCEAN - INDIAN PRESS ATTENTION HAS REPORTED
SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 214335

THE SHIP MOVEMENTS IN TERMS OF QTE LATEST US GUNBOAT DIPLOMACY UNQTE, BUT THE GOVT HAS DECLINED ALL OFFICIAL COMMENT. THUS FAR NO ANTI-INDIAN IMPLICATIONS ARE BEING READ INTO THE SITUATION. OUR AMB IN JAKARTA, HOWEVER, WAS PUBLICLY ADMONISHED BY FONMIN MALIK FOR NOT GIVING NOTIFICATION OF THE TRANSIT OF THE STRAIT OF MALACCA. KISSINGER

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